
RM1 1 mil to better sewage facilities in Langkawi

LANGKAWI: The Government will spend RM11 million to improve drainage and sewage facilities here, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Prime Minister said tourists had complained of unclean beaches caused by discharge of effluents by chalet operators into the sea.

Some operators went overseas to promote Langkawi but overlooked cleanliness at their own backyard, he added.

"Tourists will come but never return if the shores are going to be dirty.

"I commend the operators for their promotional efforts, but they must care for the long-term," he told newsmen after inspecting several project sites and the Pantai Cenang beachfront which was hit by oil slicks from the Nagasaki Spirit tanker collision in October.

The projects included the RM10 million exhibition hall being built for next year's Langkawi International Aerospace and Maritime Exhibition (Lima '93), the airport apron expansion project, a new cultural centre in Ulu Melaka and Trimula commercial scheme in Kuah.

The Prime Minister was earlier greeted at the airport by State Tourism Committee chief Datuk Haji Syed Razak Syed Zain, Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) general manager Haji Halil Muta-lib, district officer Ku Nahar Ku Ibrahim and other officials.

Dr Mahathir expressed satisfaction at Langkawi's overall development but said there was room for improvement in several matters.

"Shop owners have improved their services but I still think prices can come down. People are still complaining of high rates," he added.

Dr Mahathir said that with MAS operating about 20 weekly flights to Langkawi, the airport here would become the country's third busiest, after Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

"The increasing number of scheduled and charter flights into Langkawi is proof of its popularity as a tourist destination," he said, adding that there must be no let-up in work.

On the controversy involving "over-priced" land here, Dr Mahathir said the Federal Government was concerned, adding that land-owners should be sincere about the value of their land.
